

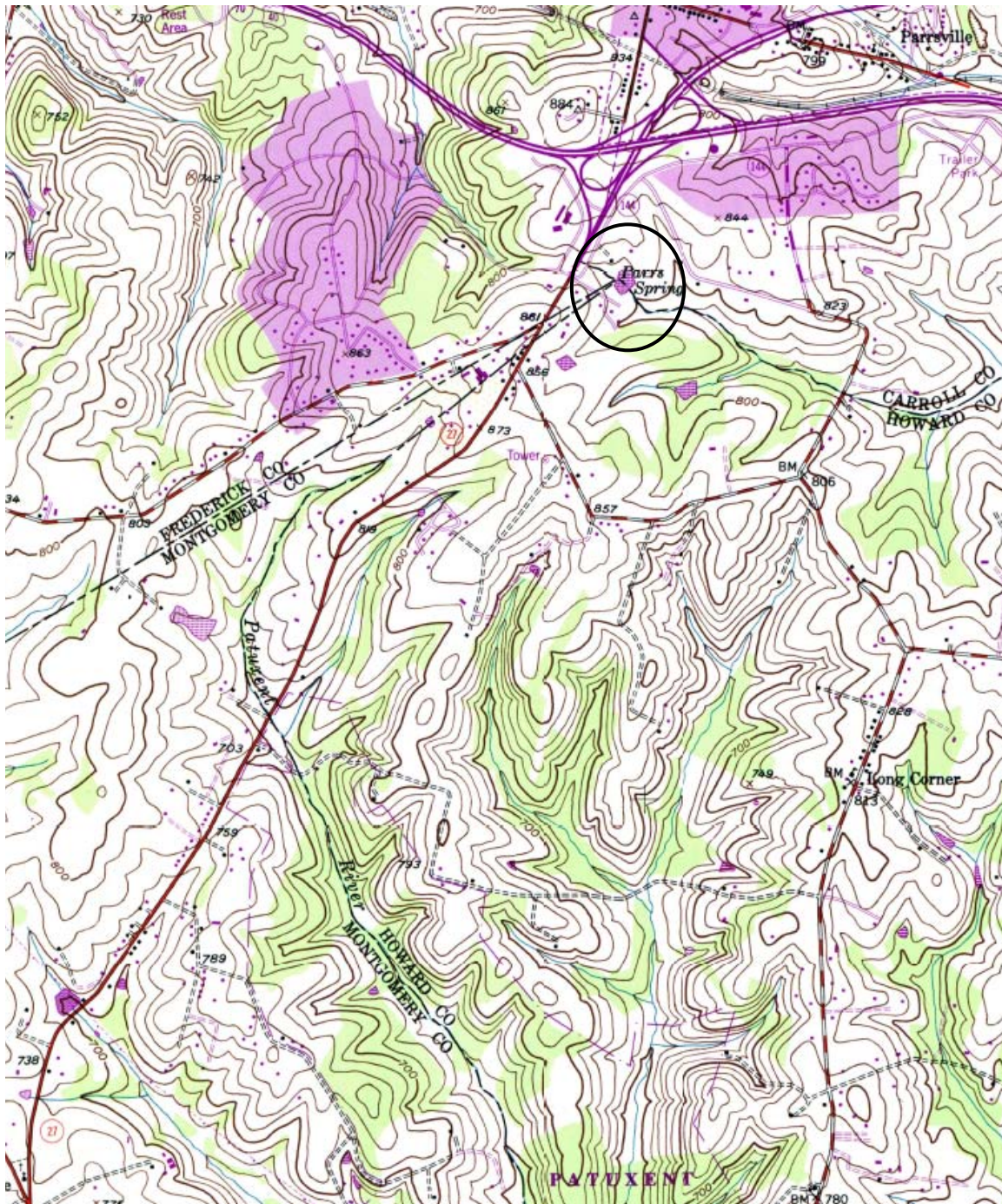
15-1 Parr's Spring (1726, 1776)
4704 Old Baltimore National Pike, Mt Airy
Private Access

Capsule Summary

As the head waters of the Potapscoc River, Parr's Spring is a long-established and unique boundary point, a commonly referenced landmark, and a notable natural feature. The spring has marked the division between two counties since at least as early as 1726, and since 1776, has been the only place in Maryland where four counties meet – currently and since 1851, Montgomery, Frederick, Carroll, and Howard, and previously, by 1776, Montgomery, Frederick, Baltimore, and Anne Arundel. The jurisdictions marked by Parr's Spring varied over time, as new counties were carved from old to meet the needs of new population centers for accessible county seats. Parr's Spring has appeared on many early maps, including the 1795 Griffith's Map of Maryland and, possibly, the 1707 Franz Ludwig Michel Map of the Shendoah Valley and Upper Potomac River. Parr's Spring was named for John Parr, a Maryland resident and landowner from the 1700's who also lent his name to nearby Parr's Ridge, which in part runs through Montgomery County, and Parrsville, near Mt. Airy. Many notable surveys have included Parr's Spring, including the 1834 Frederick-Montgomery County Boundary Survey and the 1980 Frederick-Montgomery-Howard County Resurvey, conducted by the Maryland Geological Survey at the request of the Maryland Assembly. In 1985 the Maryland Geological Survey dispelled a long-standing misconception that Parr's Spring formed the Patuxent River's headwaters when it officially identified a spring to southwest of Parr's Spring as the river's source. Locally, the waters of Parr's Spring have been used for recreation and in the construction of Ridge Road (Route 27). Parr's Spring is now submerged in a pond, and the dates and origins of a new, protruding concrete marker as well as several older submerged marker stones or boulders are unknown: however, the submerged boulders are probably some of the oldest known boundary markers in Maryland. In short, Parr's Spring is a unique site, has state and local significance, and is strongly associated with Maryland's exploration and development.

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4704 Old Baltimore National Pike, Mt Airy
Private Access

USGS Damascus Quad



Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. 15-1

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Parr's Spring (at Four County Farm)

other

2. Location

street and number 4704 Old Baltimore National Pike __ not for publication

city, town Mt. Airy, MD __ vicinity

county Montgomery, Carroll, Frederick, Howard

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Four County Farm Development Co., Inc. c/o Doris M. Rust

street and number 803 E. Elizabeth Street telephone 970-482-1305

city, town Fort Collins state CO zip code 80524-3844

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Carroll County liber 245 folio 539

city, town tax map 75 tax parcel 36 tax ID number 13-002061

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- Contributing Resource in National Register District
- Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
- Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- Recorded by HABS/HAER
- Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
- Other: MNCPPC/Mont. Co. Planning Dept. Historic Preservation Section files

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count		
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> landscape-- <i>spring</i>	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> social	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> unknown		
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use		
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: <i>boundary marker</i>	Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory	

7. Description

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Condition

excellent deteriorated
 good ruins
 fair altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Parr's Spring is a spring, now within a pond, that forms the headwaters of the Potapsco River. The spring is the designated boundary point of four Maryland counties – Montgomery, Carroll, Frederick, and Howard – and is located on a 12.61-acre parcel that is part of a property known, appropriately, as Four County Farm. The parcel is situated to the east of the intersection of Lakeview Drive and the Baltimore National Pike (Route 144), east of Ridge Road (Route 27), in the vicinity of Mt. Airy, Maryland. A modern concrete marker protruding from the pond indicates the site of the spring and the junction of the four counties. The original boundary stone may be next to the concrete marker under the water. The parcel also contains a commemorative monument placed on a nearby lawn by the Pleasant Plains of Damascus Daughters of the Revolution, a bank barn, and a late Victorian farmhouse. It is likely that only the boundary marker, spring, and a part of the pond are actually within, or at least partially within Montgomery County.

Concrete Boundary Marker and Possible Original Boundary Boulder(s):

Protruding about one foot from the pond is a narrow, rectangular, flat-topped stone or concrete marker whose upright sides are each smoothly polished and about nine inches wide. Crisply inscribed on each upright side is an elegant capital letter – either M, C, F, or H – to signify the county that the marker faces at that point. The top of the marker is inscribed with the number 14, evidently a state-assigned boundary marker enumerator.¹

The marker appears to sit slightly askew in the water. It is located off center and about 50 feet from the western shore of the pond, about 100 feet to the east of the DAR monument, and about 176 feet to the east of the rear of the house. A photo attached to a 1954 publication by the Maryland State Department of Education² shows the rectangular boundary marker in a field, sitting next to a boulder that appears to be inscribed with illegible words or numbers. This boulder may have been an earlier marker, perhaps the original one. The boulder(s) may still be present under the water.³

¹ See Map GZ in the Montgomery County Tax Map records, which contains a triangular symbol with the notation “14 Parr, N553932, E762490, State Values.) Bob Dadd, head of the Property Mapping Section in the Maryland Department of Mapping, stated to this researcher in a phone conversation on 11/18/2008 that the origin of the number 14 is unclear, but the other numbers shown on the tax map refer to distances from certain points, most likely using the 1927 North American Datum geodetic reference system.

² Living in Montgomery: Maryland Picture Portfolio Series, Volume 15, A Cooperative Project of The Board of Education of Montgomery County and the Maryland State Department of Education, copyright 1954, Maryland State Department of Education, “Parr’s Spring – Montgomery County,” Historical Number – 1505, with attached photograph.

³ See Schwarz, Kenneth A., Department of Natural Resources Maryland Geological Survey (Kenneth N. Weaver, Director), Special Publication No. 1, Frederick-Montgomery-Howard County Boundary Line Resurvey of 1980, prepared in cooperation with Representatives of Frederick County, Montgomery County and Howard County, 1985, pages 11, 14, 62 – 64. This information indicates that at the time of a 1980 resurvey of the aforementioned boundaries, the Parr’s Spring stone (i.e. boulder) was recovered (observed) as being located underwater and standing approximately four feet above mud line and about three feet wide by two feet thick. A photo shows a pier extending into the pond, and text describes a hole at the end of the pier through which the stone could be observed. (Aerial photos indicate that the pier was removed sometime after spring or summer 2000.) An accompanying drawing shows three stones or boulders, the center one being as described, with a “P” inscribed on the face. Also noted was the existence of a cement plaque on the top of this center stone with an inscribed “14”, the significance of which was not determined but which was

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DAR Monument:

In honor of the Bicentennial of both the United States and Montgomery County, the Pleasant Plains of Damascus Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution erected a rectangular stone monument sitting at an angle on a stone base. The monument is about ___ wide by ___ high, and is located on the lawn to the west of the boundary marker in the pond and in the rear yard of the house. Inscribed on the monument is the DAR symbol and the words:

PARR'S SPRING	
HEADWATER OF PATAPSCO RIVER	
BOUNDARY POINT OF FOUR COUNTIES	
1776	1851
FREDERICK	FREDERICK
MONTGOMERY	MONTGOMERY
BALTIMORE	CARROLL
ANNE ARUNDEL	HOWARD

The base of the marker is inscribed as follows:

PRESENTED BY PLEASANT PLAINS OF DAMASCUS CHAPTER NSDAR 1976

Farmhouse and Bank Barn:

To the northwest of the pond is a Victorian farmhouse that faces Rt 144. The house is separated from the road by a swathe of trees. The house has a corner turret and a sizeable addition on its southwestern side and alterations to its rear elevation. The main, five-bay central portion of the house is intact and retains its original materials. The bank barn, to the left of the house in a field, contains the wording, "Four County Farm, 1837" painted on its side.

apparently unrelated to an earlier survey conducted in 1835. The publication indicates as well that "this stone predates, and therefore was not actually set as part of the Survey of 1835." No mention is made in this 1985 publication of the rectangular concrete boundary marker that currently protrudes from the water. However, in a November, 2008 telephone conversation with the author, Kenneth Schwarz, Mr. Schwarz remembered that there was a concrete marker near the pier and it might be the stone with the "14" on it.

8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____

Specific dates

Architect/Builder

Construction dates

Evaluation for:

National Register

Maryland Register

not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

As the head waters of the Potapsco River, Parr's Spring is a long-established and unique boundary point, a commonly referenced landmark, and a notable natural feature. The spring has marked the division between two counties since at least as early as 1726, and since 1776, has been the only place in Maryland where four counties meet – currently and since 1851, Montgomery, Frederick, Carroll, and Howard, and previously, by 1776, Montgomery, Frederick Baltimore, and Anne Arundel. The jurisdictions marked by Parr's Spring varied over time, as new counties were carved from old to meet the needs of new population centers for accessible county seats. Parr's Spring has appeared on many early maps, including the 1795 Griffith's Map of Maryland and, possibly, the 1707 Franz Ludwig Michel Map of the Shenandoah Valley and Upper Potomac River. Parr's Spring was named for John Parr, a Maryland resident and landowner from the 1700's who also lent his name to nearby Parr's Ridge, which in part runs through Montgomery County, and Parrsville, near Mt. Airy. Many notable surveys have included Parr's Spring, including the 1834 Frederick-Montgomery County Boundary Survey and the 1980 Frederick-Montgomery-Howard County Resurvey, conducted by the Maryland Geological Survey at the request of the Maryland Assembly. In 1985 the Maryland Geological Survey dispelled a long-standing misconception that Parr's Spring formed the Patuxent River's headwaters when it officially identified a spring to southwest of Parr's Spring as the river's source. Locally, the waters of Parr's Spring have been used for recreation and in the construction of Ridge Road (Route 27). Parr's Spring is now submerged in a pond, and the dates and origins of a new, protruding concrete marker as well as several older submerged marker stones or boulders are unknown: however, the submerged boulders are probably some of the oldest known boundary markers in Maryland. In short, Parr's Spring is a unique site, has state and local significance, and is strongly associated with Maryland's exploration and development.

Landmark and Boundary Marker

The first use of the spring as a landmark and reference point may be on the 1707 Franz Ludwig Michel Map of the Shenandoah Valley and Upper Potomac River, which is the first recorded exploration of the lower Shenandoah Valley and which identifies a "spring which flows 60 miles from Annapolis."⁴ Parr's Spring is

⁴ Franz Ludwig Michel Map of the Shenandoah Valley and Upper Potomac River, 1707, Public Record Office, London. See also: Grace L. Tracey and John P. Dern, Pioneers of Old Monocacy, Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., 1987, pages 2 and 231; also

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also shown and named on the 1795 Griffith's Map of Maryland,⁵ the 1808 Charles Varle Map of Frederick and Washington Counties, which was the first known county map in the United States,⁶ and on the 1829 Lieutenant J. Barney Map of the Country Embracing the Various Routes Surveyed for the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad.⁷ It is also shown on the 1858 Isaac Bond Map of Frederick County,⁸ as well as on several of Simon J. Martenet's 1860's maps of Maryland Counties.⁹ Today, the Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation Real Property (Tax) Maps show a boundary point marker labeled "14 Parr" with geodetic coordinates.¹⁰

Parr's Spring has been used as a designated boundary point numerous times, both for counties and for election districts, as follows.

- In 1726, the Maryland General Assembly passed an act "for uniting part of Baltimore County to Anne Arundel" and the act provided that the boundary between Baltimore and Anne Arundel be the south side of the Patapsco River, from the head thereof.¹¹
- In 1748, Frederick County was carved out of Prince George's County, and the boundaries were described as "...then with the Patuxent River to the lines of Baltimore County, and with the said County to the extent of the Province."¹² Neither the spring nor the head of the Patapsco was mentioned, but given prior boundary descriptions for Baltimore and Anne Arundel, it is implicit that the spring had become a boundary point for Frederick as well.

Danielle Moretti-Langholtz, Ph.D., A Study of Virginia Indians and Jamestown: the First Century, prepared for the Colonial National Historical Park, National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, Cooperative Agreement #CA 4290-0-0001, Williamsburg, Virginia, December 2005, Appendix A, Map 11. Michel was seeking land appropriate for a Swiss colony in the region.

⁵ Edward C. Papenfuse and Joseph M. Coale III, The Maryland State Archives Atlas of Historical Maps of Maryland 1608-1908, the Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore and London, copyright 1982 and 2003, Figure 66.

⁶ Maryland Historical Society – online maps, and Papenfuse, op.cit., Figure 107.

⁷ Maryland Historical Society – online maps. Cartographer Lieutenant J. Barney, U.S. Army, drawn by Lt. J. Barney, U.S. Army, engraved by John and Win. W. Warr Philada. (covered by a label): To the Subscribers of the "American," I form Dobbin, Murphy & Bose, 1829.

⁸ Papenfuse, op. cit., Figure 110.

⁹ Papenfuse, op.cit.

¹⁰ Maryland State Department of Taxation and Assessments, Montgomery County Tax Map.

¹¹ Edward B. Mathews, Maryland Geological Survey General Report, Volume 6, Part V, "The Counties of Maryland, Their Origin, Boundaries, and Election Districts, Baltimore, The Johns Hopkins Press, 1906, pages 438-439, original from Harvard University, digitized Aug. 23, 2007, see Google Books. (See also Original Recorded Laws – Liber # 5, folios 118-120; also "Historic Parr's Spring – State of Maryland" by Janie W. Payne, prepared for the Damascus Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, in possession of the Montgomery County Planning Department, Historic Preservation Section.)

¹² Mathews, op. cit., pages 447-448. See also Original Recorded Laws, Liber BLC, folios 448-449, Chapter 15 of 1748; also Payne, op.cit.

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- In 1750, the General Assembly passed an act to clarify Frederick's boundary with Baltimore County, and the boundary line was described as "Beginning at a Spring called Parr's Spring..."¹³ This is the first time the spring is identified by this name in official records.
- On September 6, 1776, the Maryland Constitutional Convention, acting on a bill presented by Dr. Thomas Wootton, passed a resolution to create a new county from the lower part of Frederick County, to be named after Revolutionary War hero General Richard Montgomery. The resolution stated:
 - Resolved, That after the first day of October next, such part of the said County of Frederick, as it is so contained within the bounds and limits following, to wit: Beginning at the east side of the mouth of Rock Creek on the Potomac River, and running thence with the said river to the mouth of the Monocacy, then with a straight line to Parr's Spring, from thence with the lines of the county to the beginning, shall be and hereby erected into a new county called Montgomery.¹⁴
- In 1836, Carroll County was carved out of parts of Frederick and Baltimore Counties, and the boundaries were described as "Beginning at the Pennsylvania line..., thence with the road called Buffalo Road, and to a point called Parr's Spring, thence with the Western Branch of the Patapsco Falls..."¹⁵
- In 1837, Parr's Spring was used as a boundary point for the Ninth Election District in Carroll County.¹⁶
- In 1851, Howard County was created from the western part of Anne Arundel, and although the description of the boundaries does not mention Parr's Spring, Howard assumed Anne Arundel's northwestern boundary point.¹⁷

John Parr

John Parr, for whom Parr's Spring, Parr's Ridge, and Parrsville (near Mt. Airy) were named, was a Maryland resident and landowner. A newspaper article from 1994 stated that a John Parr was listed on ship passenger lists as sailing from England to Maryland in 1715.¹⁸ He apparently had a wife named Mary and six children – Arthur, Matthew, Mark, John Jr., Theme Ward, and Elizabeth.¹⁹ Judging from the land records described

¹³ Mathews, op. cit., pages 447-448. See also Original Recorded Laws, Liber BLC, folios 496-497, Chapter 13 of 1750; also Payne, op.cit.

¹⁴ Mathews, op. cit, page 518. See also Journal of the Proceedings of the Convention of the State of Maryland 1776, folios 48-49; also Payne, op. cit; also Jane C. Sween and William Offutt, Montgomery County Centuries of Change, American Historical Press, 1999, pages 29-30.

¹⁵ J. Thomas Scharf, A.M., History of Western Maryland, Vol. I, Baltimore, Regional Publishing Company, 1968, page 362. See Act of 1835, Chapter 256.

¹⁶ Scharf, op. cit., page 894.

¹⁷ Mathews, op. cit., page 509. See also Act of 1838, Chapter 22; also Payne, op.cit.

¹⁸ Tracy Lewis, "Who in the world is Parr anyway?" *The Gazette*, 6 July 1994.

¹⁹ Grace L. Tracey and John P. Dern, Pioneers of Old Monocacy: The Early Settlement of Frederick County, Maryland 1721-1743, Baltimore, Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc, 1987, page 231.

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below, he first lived in what was then Anne Arundel County (now Howard) and by 1744 had moved to what was then Prince George's County (now the four counties area). His will was registered in Prince George's County on April 27, 1745,²⁰ and he died sometime between 1746 and 1748.

John Parr's name appears in Anne Arundel and Prince Georges' land records starting in the 1730's, as follows.

- In 1730, he was issued a certificate of survey and in 1731, a patent, for a 103-acre tract known as "Parr's Addition" lying in Anne Arundel "in the fork of Patuxent River called Winkepin Neck Beginning at three Bounded White Oaks..."²¹ This tract is located near current-day Savage in what is now Howard County.²² In these records he is described as "John Parr of Anne Arundel County."
- In March 1738, John Parr was assigned a land warrant for "Johns Good Luck",²³ a 50-acre tract of land "lying by Linganore Hundred by Cornwalls Holly" in Prince George's County (near current-day Woodville north of Mt. Airy in Frederick County²⁴), which he then assigned to his son Arthur "of Anne Arundel" in August 1738.
- In June 1738, he was issued an unpatented certificate of survey for a 50-acre tract known as "Parrs Lot", also in Anne Arundel, and he is still described as "John Parr of Anne Arundel."²⁵
- On February 7, 1744, John Parr, now described as being "of Prince Georges County," was issued certificates of survey and patents for two tracts -- "Bush Creek Hill" (100 acres)²⁶ and "Parrs Range" (100 acres)²⁷ -- in what was then Prince Georges County and is now the four counties area of Montgomery, Frederick, Carroll, and Howard. These two tracts likely were near or contained the spring that eventually became known as Parr's Spring. Bush Creek Hill is described as "Beginning at two bounded White Oaks standing at one of the head Springs of Snowdens River being a branch of Patuxent River." Parrs Range is described as "Beginning at three bounded Whiteoaks standing on the South... (illegible)...branch of Potapsco River." John Parr's will of 1745 specified that Parr's Range be left to son Arthur and Bush Creek Hill to Matthew.²⁸

²⁰ Lewis, op. cit.

²¹ Parrs Addition, John Parr, 103 Acres, date 1731.9.04, Anne Arundel County, Patented Certificate 1128, MSA 1189-1190.

²² J.D. Warfield, A.M., The Founders of Anne Arundel and Howard Counties, Kohn and Pollock, Baltimore, MD, 1906, page 351.

²³ Johns Good Luck, 50 Acres, date 1748.3.25, Prince Georges County, Patented Certificate 1201, MSA S 1203 - 1276.

²⁴ Tracey and Dern, op. cit., page 231.

²⁵ Parrs Lot, John Parr, 50 Acres, date 1738.06.26, Anne Arundel County, Unpatented Certificate 319, MSA S 1212-324.

²⁶ Bush Creek Hill, John Parr, 100 Acres, date 1744.02.07, Prince George's County, Patented Certificate 433, MSA S 1203-500.

²⁷ Parrs Range, Joh Parr, 100 Acres, date 1744.2.07, Prince George's County, Patented Certificate 1608, MSA S 1203-1698.

²⁸ Lewis, op. cit. Will registered in Prince George's County on April 27, 1745. See also Tracey and Dern, op. cit., page 231.

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- In 1746, John Parr indicated that his heirs and assigns were to assign the aforementioned “John’s Good Luck” in Prince George’s County to Captain John Dorsey Junior.²⁹ In 1748, Arthur, as executor of John Parr, deceased, transferred “John’s Good Luck” to John Dorsey Junior.³⁰

Frederick County was formed in 1748, and the first regular session of the County Court convened March 21, 1749. According to one source,

The first petition filed was by Stephen Julian and Darby Ryan, who had been bound to Widow Parr, administratrix of John Parr, deceased, and averred that she being dead, and the effects of said Parr being likely to made way with, petitioned that some method be taken for their safety, and an attachment was issued for Arthur Parr, returnable the third Tuesday in June following.³¹

Thus, by the time John Parr’s wife died (sometime after John Parr died but prior to March 21, 1749), the property that she held with her deceased husband near or at Parr’s Spring was considered to be at least partially within Frederick County and subject to the jurisdiction of the Frederick County court.

Boundary Surveys that include Parr’s Spring

Parr’s Spring has been included in several notable boundary and property surveys, as follows.

- In 1834, the Maryland Assembly authorized a survey of the Frederick-Montgomery line. The survey was undertaken in 1835, and surveyors established the zero stone and two other stones in the mouth of the Monocacy River and placed eight additional marker stones with specific markings every two miles to Parr’s Spring, which apparently already was marked by a stone or stones.³²
- In 1884, the farm on which Parr’s Spring is located was resurveyed by the Howard County Surveyor, and a patent was issued the same year, called “Head Waters of Patapsco.”³³
- In the 1920’s, Parr’s Spring may have been included in a boundary survey of portions of the Howard-Montgomery and Frederick-Montgomery lines undertaken by Sheriff Alvie Moxley to help settle border disputes. Unfortunately, the records of this survey were stored in a barn that burned up.³⁴
- In 1979, the Maryland General Assembly authorized the Maryland Department of Natural Resources to direct the Maryland Geological Survey to resurvey and remark the 1835 line. This survey was undertaken in 1980 and started at Parr’s Spring. Surveyors found five of the eleven original 1835

²⁹ Johns Good Luck, op. cit.

³⁰ Johns Good Luck, op. cit.

³¹ J. Thomas Scharf, A.M., History of Western Maryland, Volume 1, Baltimore, Regional Publishing Company, 1968, pages 418-419.

³² Schwarz, op. cit., pages 5, 11, 62-64.

³³ Head Waters of Patapsco, J. Thomas Smith, date 1882.02.03, patented Certificate 4, MSA S 1200-10.

³⁴ Schwarz, op. cit., pages 10 and 15.

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stones, remnants of two other original boundary stones, and six other boundary markers that were planted either before or after the 1835 survey. The survey report, written in 1985, officially recognized the springs in the vicinity of one of the non-1835 stones -- the HM Stone on the Quentin Day farm about 4,366 feet to the southwest of Parr's Spring -- to be the headwaters of the Patuxent, thus officially rectifying a long-standing though not consistent misconception that Parr's Spring formed the headwaters of the Patuxent. After identifying the HM stone, the surveyors then surveyed the portion of the Howard-Montgomery line that ran from this stone to Parr's Spring, a section that perhaps had never been surveyed before.³⁵

Local Significance

Parr's Spring and Four Counties Farm have local significance as well. According to Motie Cuthbertson, a former owner of Four Counties Farm and now deceased,

In 1910, '11, and '12, a blacktop road was put in from Damascus out past the house [now, Route 27/Ridge Road, once known as Old Buffalo Road]. The water they used to put the road in was pumped from Parr's Spring by a gasoline engine. The road was built by immigrant labor, mostly Phillipinos and Italians. My father permitted the builders to put up shacks in the woods for the employees...Before Damascus put in the blacktop in the early 1900's, it was just a mudhole. There was a wooden boardwalk instead of a sidewalk. As soon as roads were completed from the District of Columbia, people who worked in the government came out to live because Damascus was so well-liked...We got electricity about 1913 or '14. The poles that run the wires from Damascus to Mt. Airy were taken off this farm.³⁶

Parr's Spring also was once a resting point for bicyclists riding between Frederick and Baltimore, and at times more than 100 bicycles would be parked in the meadow that used to surround the spring.³⁷

³⁵ John R. Cranford, Sentinel Staff Writer, "Montgomery County's Land of the Lost," *Sentinel*, January 31, 1980.

³⁶ Emily Isberg, Sentinel Staff Writer, "Motie Cuthbertson Remembers 'Good old days' at Four County Farm," *Sentinel*, February 2, 1980.

³⁷ *Living in Montgomery County: Maryland Picture Portfolio Series*, Volume 15, A Cooperative Project of The Board of Education of Montgomery County and The Maryland State Department of Education, copyright 1954, Maryland State Department of Education, Number - 1505.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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See attached.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property unknown
Acreage of historical setting _____
Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale: _____

Verbal boundary description and justification

The setting is that portion of the parcel located within Montgomery County.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Sandra L. Youla		
organization	M-NCPPC/MCPD – Historic Preservation Section	date	12/15/2008
street & number	8787 Georgia Avenue	telephone	301-563-3400
city or town	Silver Spring	state	MD 20910-3760

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Department of Planning
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

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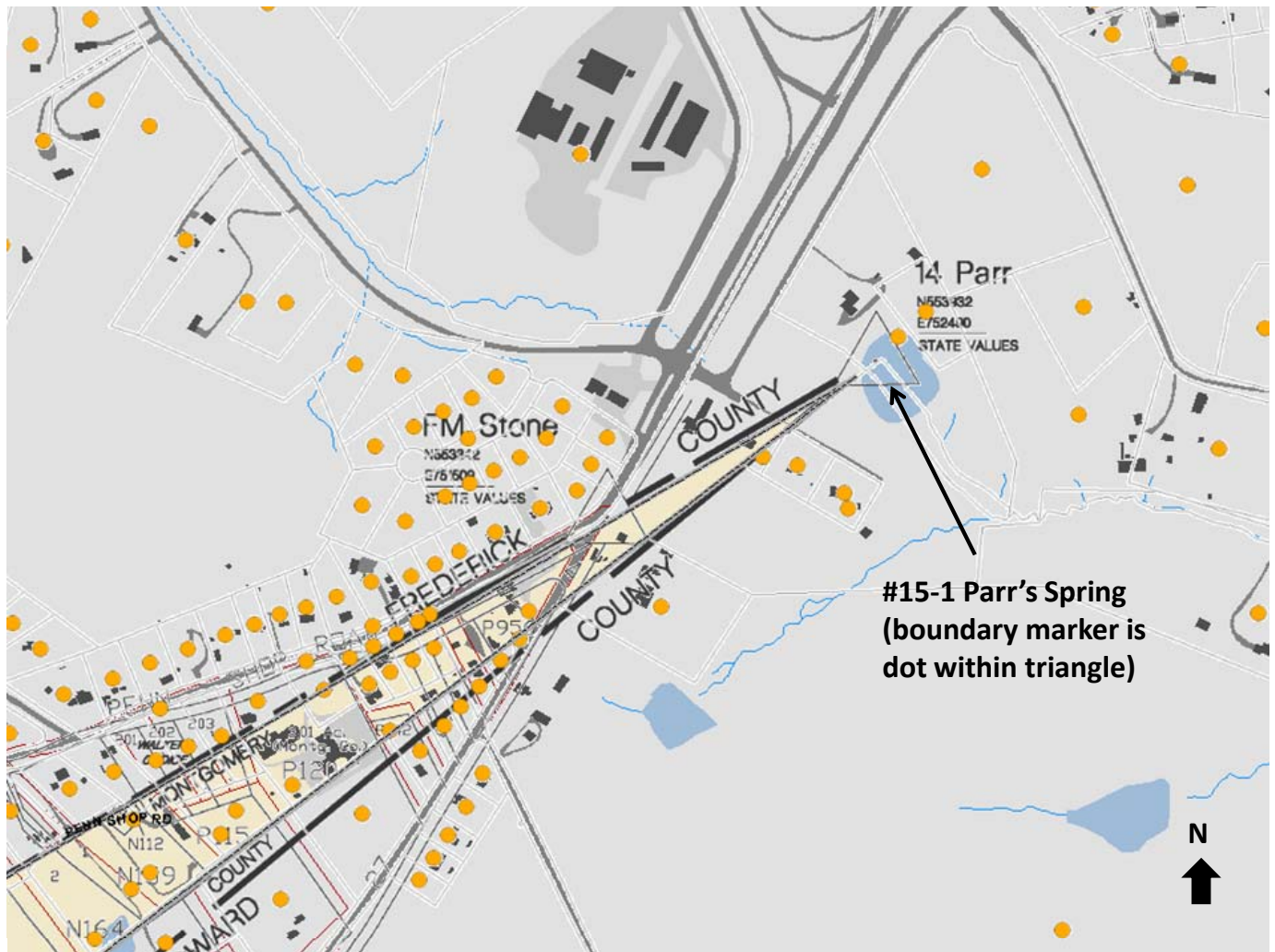
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#15-1 Parr's Spring Location Map. Note that the Howard County boundary is not shown.

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#15-1 Parr's Spring: Parr's Spring Boundary Marker, looking east

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#15-1 Parr's Spring: Marker placed by the Pleasant Plains of Damascus Chapter of the DAR

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#15-1 Parr's Spring: Pond formed by Parr's Spring, with DAR monument in foreground and boundary marker in pond behind.

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#15-1 Parr's Spring: Dwelling House.